

**Ward Report – for October 2021**  
**From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin**

Old Gore Ward  
Brampton Abbots, Brockhampton with Much Fawley, How Caple, Kings Caple, Much Marcle, Upton Bishop and Woolhope.

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Dear Parish Councillors and Residents, welcome to this edition of my ward report I hope you find it interesting and there is a 'useful information' section at the end.



### Mobile COVID test teams out and about



Offering tests on site in some locations. Helping you to carry out regular testing whenever and wherever you need it.

The testing programme for Covid-19 is playing a vital role in helping to keep us all safe by identifying those who have the virus, but no symptoms, so that they can self-isolate and avoid passing the virus to others. Around one in three people who are infected with Covid-19 have no symptoms. Rapid testing using [lateral flow test devices](#) (LFT) is a fast and simple way to test people who are not showing symptoms, and helps us to stop spreading Covid-19 without realising it.

This week, in the Ross area we will be at:

Tuesday 5 October

- [Morrisons, Ross-on-Wye](#), 10am to 4pm
- [Woods of Whitchurch](#), 11am to 5pm

For location of further dates and locations please look at the URL below:

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/1169/covid-19-mobile-testing-4-october-to-9-october>

### Vaccination appointments still available in Herefordshire.

Vaccination is the best defence against Covid-19.

Clinics are still available in Herefordshire for anyone over the age of 16. If you haven't had yours yet, [you can book here](#). Alternatively, you can just walk in but only for Pfizer vaccinations.

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### Booster Vaccinations

You can [book your COVID-19 booster vaccine dose online](#) if you are a frontline health or social care worker.

**Once you have been contacted by the NHS**, you can also use this service if you either:

- aged 50 and over
- aged 16 and over with a [health condition that puts you at high risk from COVID-19](#)

You may be contacted and asked to book online or at a local NHS service such as a GP surgery.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/1179/vaccination-clinics-4-to-10-october>

### Grants

Six million County Covid recovery plan

Using a six million pound grant from the Government Herefordshire Council has put together a number of projects to support a recovery of the economy and community. Business grants will be available and promotion of the county to support tourism and hospitality sectors. Advice for return to work, re-skilling at a one stop shop and new youth employment Hub to support young people not in education, employment or training.

Encouraging people to return to towns with free weekend bus travel, refurbished shop fronts, discounts and investment in public rights of way and seating areas as well as various measures to improve physical activity and support people's wellbeing including basic mobile and iPad lessons and free adult learning swimming lessons.

### Community and personal resilience grant:

There are grants of up to £10,000 available for projects that will increase capacity in voluntary and community groups, to promote greater personal and community resilience, following the impacts of Covid-19. The application process closes on 14 October 2021.

<https://www.herefordshirecf.org/community-and-personal-resilience-grant/>

### Get active cultural activities grant:

Grants of up to £10,000 are available for projects that support the development of cultural activities, to improve mental health and wellbeing and get people engaged back into society,

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following long periods of lockdown and restricted access to services. It is open for applications until 14 October 2021. [https://www.comfirst.org.uk/\\_get\\_active\\_cultural\\_fund](https://www.comfirst.org.uk/_get_active_cultural_fund)

**Community climate and nature grant:**

Grants of up to £15,000 are available for non-profit organisations and parish councils to support new projects, which deliver carbon reduction and / or ecological enhancement in local communities. The funding is limited and match funding may also be required. The application process closes on 15 December 2021.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/climategrant>

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/1223/applications-now-open-for-the-community-climate-and-nature-grant-scheme>

**Boost for new and expanding businesses**

Businesses looking to take a first-step into retail or move into commercial premises in Herefordshire for the first time can now get grant funding support.

Start-up businesses wishing to try retail with either a pop-up type arrangement or taking on a retail premises can now apply for a grant of £500 - £2,500 towards rent, marketing and small equipment purchases.

Existing businesses wishing to take on retail or commercial premises for the first time can now apply for a grant of £2,500 - £10,000 towards rent, alterations/making good premises and purchasing equipment.

The 'revive and thrive' business support grants are being funded from the Government's Covid-19 outbreak management funds grant as part of Herefordshire Council's Covid-19 recovery plan, supporting economic recovery and improving wellbeing in Herefordshire.

Businesses wanting to find out more about the grants available can find out more [here](#), or request an Expression of Interest from [reviveandthrive@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:reviveandthrive@herefordshire.gov.uk)

**Mental Health**

Since March 2020 Talk Community has received 3,500 requests for support, and has coordinated over 300 volunteers in ensuring those isolating received food, medication and access to financial aid where required. 19 Talk Community hubs have launched over the first four months of 2021 which provide information, advice and signposting to residents within communities and a network of volunteers to connect residents into their communities.

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Details at <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/22617/herefordshire-council-recovery-plan-2021>

**Fun, FREE, fitness is now on offer**

A new, exciting FREE membership package giving access to Halo facilities across Herefordshire for anyone in academic Years 11-13 (or equivalent) who lives in the county is available from Wednesday 22 September 2021 – UK Active National Fitness Day.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/1222/take-the-pressure-off-and-put-your-trainers-on>

**Queen`s platinum jubilee 2022**

I recently informed in my report of the forthcoming Parishes are starting to address their



plans for celebrating the Queen`s platinum jubilee next year and the Green Canopy campaign. I would welcome working with Parish councils and landowners on tree planting as part of the Queens Canopy campaign

I am given to understand from those more knowledgeable than me on species to plant. Apparently, the best way is to stand where you are going to plant the tree(s) and have a good look round 360 degrees- identify the trees that are growing well in that area- then chose those to plant.

Do NOT plant Ash or Elm (unless it is a resistant variety).

Do plant some shrubs in amongst the trees- again look round and see what is growing locally. All trees will want protection, weeding and care into the future. Remember that trees grow so planting near houses, walls and roads will not be sustainable so please give that particular thought.

The Woodland Trust have packs of trees available for certain circumstances

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/c7509965/Bpn3e9Nom02GV96oGBMZQQ?u=https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/>

**Energy Advocacy Service: Supporting residents with their home energy**

Did you know...Keep Herefordshire Warm offer an Energy Advocacy Service?

The service is available for anyone living in Herefordshire, who is struggling to pay their energy bills and keep their home warm or navigate the complex world of home energy.

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The service's Energy Advocate, Amy, can offer friendly and professional advice to help with understanding and managing bills, fuel debt, meter issues, liaising with energy companies, keeping warm on a budget, switching tariffs and suppliers. She can also provide energy efficiency advice, money saving tips and can signposting to heating and insulation grants.

The support is available over the phone, online or through home visits. To find out more and make a referral, please visit the [Keep Herefordshire Warm website](https://www.keepherefordshirewarm.org.uk) or contact Amy at [advocate@severnwye.org.uk](mailto:advocate@severnwye.org.uk).

### **Herefordshire Armed Forces Covenant**

The Vice Chairman of the Armed Forces Covenant was recently interviewed on BBC H&W about this (last Monday 27 Sep). He essentially said that a significant number of the veteran community would be happy to help, in co-ordination with wider Council policy. Veterans who had served in Afghanistan were only too well aware of the bravery of those who had helped to UK forces, and the risks that were taken. I also made the point that if the situation was reversed it would not take much imagination to guess how vulnerable any transplanted families from the UK would be feeling, and much help they would hope for and need.

### **Force for Change: Veteran to veteran volunteering**

Herefordshire Veteran Support Centre, which provides support and a friendly listening ear for anyone in the armed forces community, is looking for help from local organisations.

The centre is aiming to expand its Force for Change project, but needs help to identify veterans in the county, who would potentially benefit from its low level 'buddy buddy' system and also those veterans who would like to volunteer.

It became evident during the first coronavirus lockdown, that veterans talking to veterans, immediately allowed common ground and trust to be built, enabling problems to be freely discussed and resolved.

To find out more or get in touch, visit [www.herefordshire-vsc.org](http://www.herefordshire-vsc.org) or e-mail [sean.gane@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sean.gane@herefordshire.gov.uk).

### **Hereford Pride at the Courtyard on 2 October 2021**

Herefordshire Council was proud to support a new event, Hereford Pride 2021, this is the first Hereford Pride event for some years and took place on 2 October 2021.

The council and other organisations like the NHS, NMITE and fire service, are working with members of the local community who are holding a Pride Festival at the Courtyard Theatre

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in Hereford. The day will include stalls, workshops, discussion panels and activities from 11am to 5pm. It will have series of performance acts around the building.

Hosted by Miss Drag UK 2021 with local bands and LGBTQ+ performers as well as poetry and speeches from public figures in the city (including the CEO of NMITE), it will be formally opened by the Mayor of Hereford, Councillor Paul Stevens, at 12noon.

Finally, in the evening, there will be a film double bill with entertainment and Q&As in between with a Post-Pride Party at Babar Café & Bar (Union St.) from 7pm until late (£3). Read more on the [Hereford Pride website](#) or on [Facebook page](#) or on Instagram @Hereford Pride.

### **Talk Community**

An exciting new Talk Community Hub has launched in Ross-on-Wye

The hub is the latest in a growing network of Talk Community Hubs across the county, where residents can access free information on a wide range of issues, from how to stay healthy to looking after a loved one, along with signposting to services, groups, events and activities in Herefordshire.

Located in the centre of Ross-on-Wye, the beautiful community garden provides a safe and tranquil space for people to relax and take some timeout from the busy hubbub of daily life.

<https://www.talkcommunitydirectory.org/talk-community-directory-news/exciting-new-talk-community-hub-launches-in-ross-on-wye/>

### **Local residents warned not to lose their voice in decisions that affect them.**

The annual canvass ensures that Herefordshire Council can keep the electoral register up to date, identifying any residents who are not registered to vote so that they can be encouraged to do so.

**Colette Maund, Electoral Registration Officer at Herefordshire Council said:** “It’s important that residents look out for messages from Herefordshire Council’s Electoral Services, so we can make sure we have the right details on the electoral register for every address in Herefordshire. We will be sending out our annual canvass communications over the next few months for you to respond to. Please simply follow the instructions sent to you.”

People who have moved recently are particularly encouraged to look out for the voter registration messages from Herefordshire Council and check the details.

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Research by the Electoral Commission, published in 2019, indicates that recent home movers are far less likely to be registered than those who have lived at the same address for a long time. Across Great Britain, 92% of people who have been at their property for more than sixteen years will be registered, compared to 36% of people who have lived at an address for less than one year.

### **Apply for a Postal Vote - Local by-elections**

After the recent elections in Herefordshire I would take this opportunity to advise that you may apply for a postal vote, at any time, for the local election in **May 2023**. **So** if you can't get to your polling station for whatever reason, or you do not want to vote in person at a polling station, you can apply for a postal vote; but you must be registered under Individual Electoral Registration first. You may register for a postal vote for upcoming election please review:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote>

The deadline for the receipt of new postal vote applications or to change or cancel an existing postal applications for all elections is 11 working days prior to polling day. Postal vote ballot papers are normally sent out about a week before the election.

### **PLEASE CONTINUE SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL BUSINESS**

Many of our local business are supporting our community with supplying delivery of groceries, take away food and other items.

They are too many to list here in case I miss someone but they will be on your local websites.

Please support them. If this crisis teaches us anything it is the importance of local community and a local economy.

### **Information from Parishes**

**How Caple:** The works proposed at How Caple crossroads finished and the result looks really good. The outstanding concern about which a query has been raised regards whether there is the requirement for Armco barrier to be installed. This matter is being addressed and I await an answer.

**Upton Bishop:** The proposal to install traffic lights at Old Gore crossroads continues to be discussed with the local land owner but there is a start date of October 18<sup>th</sup> 2021 and the works will continue until completion until January 17<sup>th</sup> 2022 when the work is expected to be completed and the junction fully signalised.

### **Flooding and emergency action group**

With the support of Upton Bishop Parish Council and residents there is a flood and emergency group forming who can respond swiftly to help alert and support households to

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prepare for a flooding event and deal where they can be incidents within the parish. There is much more to do enabling the emergency action plan and methods to be adopted to assist with incidents. Should any further parish councils, or residents wish to consider setting up a similar group please contact me.

As ever if you think I can be of help please do not hesitate to contact me.

***Barry***

**Barry Durkin**

**Old Gore Ward**

**Mob. 07792 882054**

[bdurkin@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:bdurkin@herefordshire.gov.uk)



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### Useful Information

#### Covid19

The Latest local Covid data and information [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-3](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-3)

National Covid guidance is available on the Government website [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

#### Talk Community

**Email:** [Talkcommunitycovidresponse@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Talkcommunitycovidresponse@herefordshire.gov.uk)

**Telephone:** 01432 260027

#### Defect Reporting

As always please continue to make use and encourage the use of established reporting methods for any highways defect;

- Telephone our customer services on [01432 261 800](tel:01432261800).
- Online using the telephone app – for potholes, dog poo and Public Rights of Way (PROW)

Please note that Herefordshire Council strongly encourages Balfour Beatty to promote all service requests and queries should be logged via the HC website at

<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole> or

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/maintenance/potholes>

Please use the website or call the customer services call handling team. This will help ensure that everything is logged in to the operating system known as CONFIRM where it can be responded to in a timely way.

#### Did you know...?

You can follow our Twitter feed @HfdsStreets for [24/7](#) updates for all things highways; or.

Log on to <https://roadworks.org> to see any live traffic incidents as well as current and planned road closures, diversions, traffic restrictions and roadworks

For any PROW (Public Rights of Way) maps or problems, you can report these via the following link on the Herefordshire Council's website:

<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-public-right-of-way-problem>

To report defects (potholes, fly tipping, blocked gullies, etc.) online:

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/190/report\\_problems\\_on\\_the\\_road](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/190/report_problems_on_the_road)

If you have a general service request, i.e. if you want to report a pothole etc. , please use the link above, or call us on 01432 261800, rather than emailing your steward. Using the link or the phone number ensures that the enquiry is dealt with promptly and efficiently. Locality Stewards do not have the resource to be able to deal with service requests via email although of course they are happy to provide general guidance and support to you through email.

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## Report fly tippers

If you spot someone fly-tipping

- Make a note of any vehicle used, including model, colour and registration number. If it is safe to do so without being seen, take a photograph or video of the activity
- Note the fly tippers' clothes, and distinguishing features. If you can hear the fly tippers, take note of anything which was said along with the speakers' accents
- Make a note of what they dumped, the location, weather conditions and how far away you were at the time;
- You may report fly tipping on an app on the website and available for download.

Please send us this information by using the [report flytipping form](#).

If you wish to email into the business, the best email address for Parishes have their own inbox [herefordshireparishes@bblivingplaces.com](mailto:herefordshireparishes@bblivingplaces.com) and both of these email inboxes are monitored by teams in the office to ensure cover at all times. If you have an emergency to report please use 01432 261800 as this is answered 24/7.

To identify road numbers, or to see if publicly maintained or to view Public Rights of Way: [https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200136/travel\\_and\\_transport/716/highways\\_and\\_public\\_rights\\_of\\_way\\_map](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200136/travel_and_transport/716/highways_and_public_rights_of_way_map)

The highways maintenance plan – which sets out the council's system of road inspection, maintenance and repairs, including timescales:

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/5210/highway\\_maintenance\\_plan\\_october\\_2016.pdf](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/5210/highway_maintenance_plan_october_2016.pdf)

### Toolkits:

Community commissioning

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/18820/community\\_commissioning\\_model\\_toolkit.pdf](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/18820/community_commissioning_model_toolkit.pdf)

Litter picking

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/14134/community\\_litter\\_pick\\_toolkit.pdf](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/14134/community_litter_pick_toolkit.pdf)

Traffic Regulation Orders

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/2891/application\\_toolkit\\_for\\_traffic\\_regulation\\_orders.pdf](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/2891/application_toolkit_for_traffic_regulation_orders.pdf)

SIDs

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/1859/speed\\_indicator\\_device\\_toolkit.pdf](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/1859/speed_indicator_device_toolkit.pdf)

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Another useful site:

For information on current and future planned roadworks by utility companies

[www.roadworks.org](http://www.roadworks.org)

Please do follow BBLP on Twitter for up to date information about road closures, ongoing work etc., [@HfdsStreets](https://twitter.com/HfdsStreets) and if you need help to set that up please let me know.

If you wish to make a claim as a result of damage to your vehicle

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/206/highway\\_claimsplease use](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/206/highway_claimsplease_use)

**Council tax reduction or exemption**

You can get money off your Council Tax bill, or even pay nothing, in certain circumstances. A discount or exemption depends on your current situation and circumstances, but does not take account of income or savings. If you are on a low income, you may also be able to get help to pay your bill through Council Tax Reduction. We will need to assess your financial and other circumstances to see what help you qualify for.

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200146/council\\_tax/39/council\\_tax\\_reduction](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200146/council_tax/39/council_tax_reduction)

**General Data Protection Regulations Statement**

The General Data Protection Act places obligations and responsibilities on any company, organisation and individual who hold and process personnel information, and it comes into force on the 25th May 2018; superseding the Data Protection Act 1998. As a County Councillor I hold a list of emails of local people that I have built up over the years which I retain and use on my council computer and email. I can give you all the reassurance that I do not and will not share those email addresses with any third party.

**In seeking legal compliance as a data controller I am requesting that if anyone is unhappy with my holding their email contact that you please advise me so that I am able to remove you from the list.** Otherwise I will retain your email contact and continue to send you monthly updates, emails as required and occasional key information.